(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) During IXth Plan.

Delay in off Loading Cost

1548. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Financial Express', dated July, 1996 under the caption "Delay in off-loading cost $25,000/ day";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made these in and facts of the matter regarding the mess caused by blocking of 3 Vessels carrying urea at Tuticorin, Madras and Rosi ports due to reported lack of coordination and delay in appointment of handling agent by the Ministry, and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that in future Government does not have to pay heavy demurrage charges for lack of coordination and administrative lapse on the part of Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On the date of news item appeared in the Financial Express, two vessels "Prabhu Gopal" and "Jag Ravi" which arrived on 15.6.96 and 22.6.96 respectively at the ports of Tuticorin and Rozy were awaiting commencement of discharge for want of designated handling agencies. The Government had started the process for appointment of handling agencies wll in time. But unlike in the past, the rates received through tenders for handling urea at the ports during 1996-97 were uniformally higher over the previous year. As the higher rates have an implication on the quantum of urea subsidy, the finalisation of the 1996-97 contracts merited detailed scrutiny by different agencies of the Government and took longer time. The handling agents have since been appointed at all ports and unloading has already commenced.

[Translation]

Visiting Abroad on Fake Visas

1549. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons arrested for going abroad on fake visas during the last three years,

(b) the action taken against them and the measures taken by the Government to curb such illegal acts;

(c) the details of conditions perscribed for issuance of the visas, and

(d) whether the Government propose to simplify those conditions so as to make them easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). According to information available, the number of persons detected for holding fake visas during the last three years at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras airports and Attari railway station, was as follows:-

	1993	1994	1995
Bombay	79	83	134
Delhi.	75	55	38
Calcutta	02	01	-
Madras	01	12	09
Attari	103	90	38
	260	241	219

The persons holding forged viasa were handed over to police authorities fo taking further necessary legal action.

After taking into account various considerations based on their national interest, foreign missions decide about the grant of visas to nationals of other countries. The essential conditions for obtaining visas vary from country to country.

Some countries issue visa stickers incorporating security features, while many countries are continuing with robber stamps which are easy to duplicate. Wider use of visa stickers with security features will be useful in tackling the problem of fake visas.

[English]

Animal Diseases

1550. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increase in the livestock mortality rate due to spreading of the rinderpest and other animal diseases in the country particularly in Karnataka,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the preventing and curative measures taken and proposed to be taken to eradicate these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AN DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) There was no significant increased mortality due to rinderpest and some of the important diseases in the country including Karnataka comparative figures of mortality due to rinderpest and some of the important diseases for 1992 and 1995 are enclosed as statement.

(c) Prevention and control of livestock diseases come under the purview of the State Governments.